

LARC Editor RETIRES

by Herman Campbell KN5GRK

Some of you older hams may remember Al Oube K5DPG, now a Silent Key, long time club member, holder of just about every position available to amateur radio. Well ten years ago, Al was the editor of the Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (AARA) newsletter LARC. Al suffered from muscular dystrophy and the disease was starting to hinder his ability to use the computer, that is when he approached me back in September 2005 to take over the job as editor of the LARC beginning on January 2006. I told him "YES, I would consider it a great honor and challenge to try to follow in his footsteps". Al passed away on November 24, 2005, that is how I ended up as LARC editor of which I have never regretted.

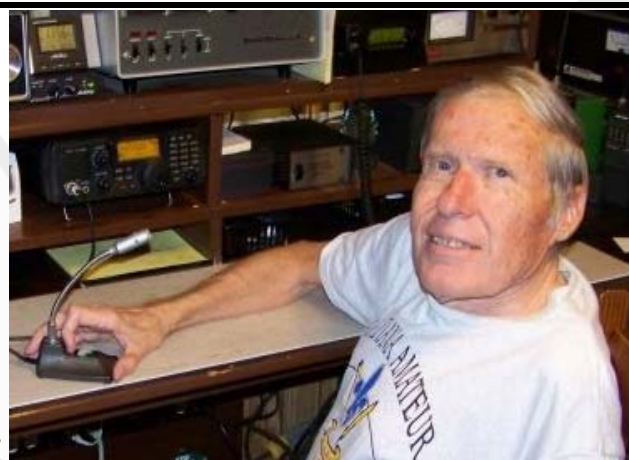
The January 2006 issue was my first. It was only a four page issue at that time but later went to six pages and then sometimes eight pages using Microsoft Publisher. I must admit it was tough at first using a publishing program that I was not familiar with but the more and more I used it, the better I liked it. It is a very powerful program with a lot of features other publishing programs do not have.

After ten years of being editor of the LARC, I decided to call it "quits" and pass it to a younger person (my arthritis is beginning to take a toll at the age of 76, and I find it more difficult to operate the keyboard). For the last coupe of years, I have used Dragon Naturally Speaking voice recognition software, it helps but it does have some limitations.

A couple of months ago, I mentioned to our club president Mark Saltzman W5GTI of my intentions of retiring as editor and he volunteered to pick up the job as editor beginning January 2016 as his first issue. I will support Mark in any way that I can and hope others to do likewise. I will still remain as the club Public Information Officer and keep my e-mail reflector for amateur radio information posts.

I must say, during this time, I have learned a great deal about publishing a newsletter, and want to thank all who have helped me put together the LARC, especially the Lafayette Salvation Army for the use of their copy machine (the only one I know that will do 11"x17" paper at no charge) and to Gulf Coast Printing & Specialties for supplying the paper for printing the mail out hard copies.

The only part of publishing the LARC that I disliked was the obit of our fellow ham radio operators becoming a Silent Key of which, many were good friends and are missed very much.



Herman KN5GRK

HELP KEEP AMATEUR RADIO ALIVE—DO YOUR PART!

JANUARY 2016 AARA GENERAL MEETING

The AARA will hold it's January General Club meeting on January 7, 2016 at 7PM at the Red Cross Building, on 101 N. Pat Street, Scott, Louisiana. The New Officer Nominating Committee will present their slate of nominees for the February Meeting elections. VE Test Session at 6PM. Board Meeting at 6PM.

All AARA members are encouraged to attend.

Resolution

With every New Year, many of us make a decision to change something about ourselves that is intended to lead to self improvement, well being, or personal challenge. Some do a very good job of following through, others do a very good job of falling through. In either case, an acknowledgement was made that a new or different approach is needed to achieve a specific goal.

As the AARA embarks on 2016, there are a lot of activities coming up throughout the year that we all look forward to. Hamfest, Field Day, Tour Du Teche, and Cajun Cup are all on their way, plus any other activities that may arise out of this fantastic hobby we all share. Several new members have joined the AARA in the past year and many activities are ongoing to improve club capability and readiness. Several members have taken on increased roles. Hopefully this has inspired a new or renewed interest in the AARA, our activities, and the hobby in general.

Let us make every AARA club event this year **BETTER THAN EVER**.

Mark
W5GTI
AARA President

AARA Donation to Salvation Army



Photo: KN5GRK

Ramona Jobe KG5HNO (right) presents a check from the Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (AARA) to the Lafayette Salvation Army officers Mrs. Major Ester James and Major Mel James to be used in helping those in need.

The AARA would also like to thank the Lafayette Salvation Army for letting us use their copy machine to produce the LARC newsletter

hard copies that are sent out monthly to members without e-mail capabilities and to our amateur radio state and national officials.

AARA OFFICERS 2015 - 2016

President - Mark Saltzman W5GTI
w5gti@cox.net
Vice Pres. - Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD
Secretary - Abbi Wilson KF5BEW
Treasurer - Archie Hill W5AG

BOARD MEMBERS

Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP
Ric Wallace KF5KEL
Tom Dischler W5OHJ
Kendra Wilson KF5FYS

QSL MANAGER

Roland Guidry NA5Q

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Herman Campbell KN5GRK
337-234-5364 kn5grk@lusfiber.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Mark Saltzman - W5GTI
larc@w5ddl.org

AARA Christmas Banquet



Photo: K5LFT

On Thursday, December 3rd, the AARA held it's annual Christmas Banquet at The Golden Corral on Amassador Caffery. Many AARA members and their families joined us for the good food and fellowship, and a small amount of club business. Thanks to all that attended, it was a great time.

AARA December General and Board Meeting Minutes

03 DECEMBER 2015

The AARA general meeting was called to order by President Mark Saltzman W5GTI.

Mr. Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP, discussed the latest findings from the AMOS II committee. There was a communication trailer located in Baton Rouge that would have been a suitable replacement for AMOS. Unfortunately, the trailer was listed on EBAY and was sold before the committee could bring the purchase to the general membership for approval. The trailer was 16' long with a pneumatic mast (30-40'), two work stations, electrical converter, Air conditioner, and was generator ready. This would have been ideal for the club's use. Glen KF5FNP and Tom Dischler W5OHJ both addressed the membership and stated that this is the type of trailer that they feel would be very adequate. With that being said, they would like to be able to purchase a trailer with the clubs prior approval so they don't miss out again. The committee would bring any purchase to the Boards attention for review and approval.

There was a brief discussion as to whether the By-Laws would allow for the purchase through the board. Greg Dolan K5LFT, looked up the By-Laws, and it appeared that the motion would have to come from the board once they had approved the motion. Priscilla Cooley KG5GKJ, made a motion that the Board review the recommendation that the AMOS II committee be allowed to purchase a communications trailer with a cap of \$10,000 with prior approval from the Board after the general membership approved the expenditure. Archie Hill, W5AG, seconded. All approved.

Bob Cooley K5IVR, made a motion to suspend the general meeting in order for the board to meet. Jackie Wallace KF5PCH, seconded. All approved. The board went into session.

AARA Board Meeting Minutes (12-03-15)

The board met briefly to discuss the motion presented to them for purchasing a communications trailer to replace AMOS. The question brought to the board was that of allowing the AMOS II committee to purchase a trailer with prior approval of the general membership with an expenditure not to exceed \$10,000. The purchase would also be brought to the board for approval prior to purchase. Archie W5AG, made a motion to bring the motion to the general club membership and if approved would allow the board and the AMOS II committee authority to make purchase. Tom W5OHJ, seconded. All members approved.

Board Meeting was adjourned.

GENERAL RESUMED

The AARA general meeting was called back into order by President Mark W5GTI. The board brought to the general membership a motion to allow the board and the AMOS II committee the authority to purchase a communications trailer to replace AMOS with an expenditure not to exceed \$10,000. The AMOS II committee would bring the purchase to the Board for approval prior to the purchase. The motion was made by Sandy Leblanc KE5KJF and seconded by Jackie KF5PCH. The motion was unanimously approved.

Door prizes were given away. Prize names were drawn by Owen Haviland KG5JTA.

\$40.00 gift certificate was won by Herman Campbell KN5GRK
\$25.00 gift certificate for Car Wash won by Linda Breau KE5HSY
\$25.00 gift certificate for Car Wash won by Kendra Wilson KF5FYS

The car wash gift certificates were graciously donated by Eric Credeur KG5JHP and his wife Sarah.
THANKS!!!

The meeting was adjourned on motion by Galen Wilson KF5BET, and seconded by Glenn Breau KD5NVC. Motion was approved.

Attendance = 40 (members and guests)

Abbi Wilson KF5BEW
AARA Secretary

2015 AARA MONDAY NIGHT NET TOP 10

WM5TS	Derek	52
KN5GRK	Herman	52
K5LFT	Greg	48
KF5THS	AJ	44
W5OHJ	Tom	43
KG5CNU	James	39
KD5JSM	Danny	36
KF5FYS	Kendra	36
KF5BET	Galen	35
KF5FNP	Glen	34

From the Editor

As the NEW Editor of the LARC, with your help, we will attempt to maintain the standard set by Mr. Herman KN5GRK as we publish the LARC each month. I encourage every AARA member to contribute in any way that they can. Articles about your experiences in Amateur Radio, your photos, your recipes, and general information about the hobby are always welcome and can serve as inspiration not only to those already in the club, but those who are not currently licensed. Thank you Mr. Herman for your many years of service as Editor and a GREAT newsletter.

Mark
W5GTI
LARC Editor



Local VHF/UHF Nets**Monday**

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM
Repeater Rotation—Check Calendar

Tuesday

Acadiana ARES Net 7:00 PM
145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Wednesday

Bodie's Memorial DX Net
145.410 New Iberia, LA

Thursday

Youth Net 7:00 PM
146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

FRIDAY on the 443 Net Secured

The Friday on the 443 Net was established to direct local operators to the new AARA club repeater operating on 443.000 (PL Tone 103.5 +5MHz). Participation was good considering the short run, and we have found that the 443 repeater can be hit with an HT from areas that cannot hit the 146.82 (same location) with the same HT.

The 443 will now be placed in the AARA Monday Night Net rotation, bringing the grand total to 5 local repeaters being used on Monday Night. If you have not already done so, program your HT, mobile, or base with the new repeater, and I will hear you on Monday Nights.

Mark W5GTI



35th Annual Hammond Hamfest

Saturday
January 16, 2016

Location: MAGNUSON HOTEL
& CONFERENCE CENTER
2000 SOUTH MORRISON BLVD
HAMMOND, LA 70403
(Take Exit #28 from I-55, Hamfest Hotel is at 2nd Traffic Light)

Time: 8:00 am til

Admission and parking. FREE
Hourly Door Prizes

Talk-in: SELARC Repeaters
147.000 (-600) WB5NET PL 107.2
145.130 (-600) WB5NET PL 107.2
444.250 (+5) WB5NET PL 107.2

VE Test Session: (Orleans Room
Testing begins at 8:00 am - Test
Fee \$15 cash, photo ID, copy of li-
cense or CSCE
TYRONE BURNS VE Liaisons,
n5xes@arrl.net

Forum Schedule: (Pontchartrain
Room) TBA - See website.

Dealers & Vendors

Palmetto Antennas, The SignMan
of Baton Rouge, MCM Computers,
Tiny's Monograms, BamCom Com-
munications, Landry's Guns, Be
Ready Solar, LA Radio, AB5Z
Tom Kelly

*** Main Prize Drawings ***

Grand Prize: Yaesu FT-857D All-
mode Transceiver

Second Prize: MFJ-266C Antenna
Analyzer

Third Prize: Astron RS-35M
Power Supply w/Meters

Fourth Prize: Baofeng UV-5R
Dual Band Handheld

Contact Table Manager David
Muller W5NPV w5npv@arrl.net
or Any SELARC Officer!!!

Website:
<http://www.selarc.org>

National Parks ON THE AIR 2016

National Parks on the Air

Throughout 2016, Amateur Radio will be helping the National Park Service celebrate their 100th anniversary. Hams from across the country will activate NPS units, promote the National Park Service and showcase Amateur Radio to the public.

This looks like another year long event. Should be fun!

See the website for rules and information at:

<http://www.arrl.org/npota>

VE Test Session

December 2015

Candidates:

Ronald Malagarie of Broussard, Louisiana received his Technician License and call KG5KUX.

VE's:

Greg K5LFT, Ric KF5KEL,
Archie W5AG

73, de GREG ~K5LFT

FCC AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TESTING

VE Test sessions are held
the 1st Thursday of every
month at 6PM, before the
AARA General Club meeting, at
the Red Cross building on
101 N. Pat St.. Scott, LA



Lafayette class helps HAM radio enthusiasts learn about hobby, prepare for licensing

by Nick Fontenot | Special to The Advocate - Dec. 24, 2015

Amateur radio - more commonly known as ham radio - has been around since 1908. In Lafayette, ham radio enthusiasts say, the hobby is growing in popularity, despite the array of ever more sophisticated communication tools available in the 21st century. A group of Lafayette-area residents has been attending a free class at the Lafayette Science Museum to learn more about amateur radio and how they can be part of a network that can provide a vital communications link during emergencies.

"Even though we have cellphones and all this infrastructure, when all that goes down, amateur radio is still here," said Mark Saltzman, president of the local Amateur Radio Club.

"We've made contingencies that if we lose the grid, we can still communicate with the ham radio," he said. "We have a lot of people who are interested in the emergency communication aspect and communication in general. We have people from all walks of life getting involved."



Advocate staff photo by BRAD BOWIE

Archie W5AG

What separates ham radio from citizens

band, or CB, radio is the amount of power used and the regulations. Ham radios can go as high as 1500 watts. The class at the Lafayette Science Museum is giving the more than 20 attendees the knowledge to pass a test required to obtain a license. "We have a much higher power cap with amateur radio," Saltzman said. "The biggest hang-up to get started is actually studying for the license and having to take the test. This class is to help those people who are interested in the hobby to give them a subject matter description and put the material in layman's terms to help better understand before taking the test."

Paul McCasland, who serves as the Lafayette Science Museum's technician and has been a ham radio operator for 30 years, said the museum took the class over from the Children's Museum and said interest has been strong.

"We wanted to give back to the community a little bit," McCasland said. "I had been out of the hobby for a few years and decided to get back involved by holding this class. The Children's Museum had been teaching the classes, and we decided to take over and provide the venue."



Advocate staff photo by BRAD BOWIE

Galen KF5BET

Nick Pugh, a self-proclaimed "lifelong ham," was involved with teaching the Children's Museum classes but said the Science Museum is a more appropriate environment for growing the hobby.

"They're a little young over there, so this tends to be a little older crowd," said Pugh, 75. "The amateur community is growing, and it's our job to get the next generation involved."

Abbi Wilson is part of that next generation of ham operators. The 18-year-old freshman at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette said she got involved with amateur radio in sixth grade and fell in love with it.

"We got involved through a class at Paul Breaux Middle School as an opportunity to use it for a final grade for a tech class," Wilson said. "I liked it and stuck with it. I consider myself a very social person, and I love the social aspect to it, as well as the science part. It makes for an interesting topic when people ask what we're doing or about the equipment. It gives a chance to explain to other people about the hobby."



Advocate staff photo by BRAD BOWIE

Mark W5GTI

Saltzman said the Internet is full of resources for amateur radio operators and getting started can cost as little as \$35.

Saltzman said the local Amateur Radio Club has about 30 to 40 hard-core members, but he said that represents only a small number of operators in Acadiana.

"We have regulars, and we are recruiting all the time," Saltzman said. "Not that the purpose of this class is to recruit, but this provides them the opportunity to get their license."

He said the local Amateur Radio Club assists anyone who wants to participate.

"It's not your grandpa's hobby, but you can certainly still use your grandpa's radio," Saltzman said. "The hobby is ever evolving. You might find the niche you started in on and take a different journey once you get involved. Once you think they've learned it all, they invent something else."



Photo: N5KNY

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

by Mark W5GTI



EASIER THAN
YOU MIGHT
THINK

One of the many different aspects of Amateur Radio is Digital Communications, which you most certainly hear of shortly after you enter the hobby. What you might not realize is that you probably have most of what you need to get started in digital communications already on hand.

First piece of the puzzle is your amateur license in the class of the band you wish to operate. Since digital communications can be used on HF, VHF, and UHF, an amateur station (rig and antenna) is the second piece. If you are currently operating in voice mode on a band, you can likely operate digitally there too.



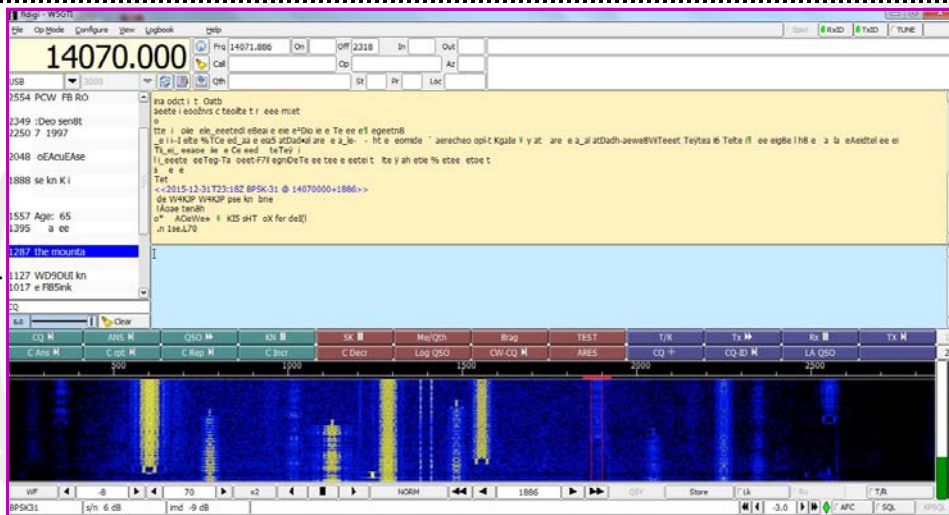
This CPU is too old

more, will work just fine.

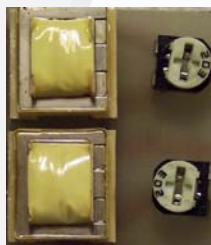
Once you have booted up that old computer you will need to install a digital communications program. In many cases these programs are free to download on the Internet. FLDIGI (shown) is very popular, free, easy to use, but by no means is it the ONLY one. Verify that the mode you would like to use can be handled by the program you choose.

Now we have to connect the computer to the rig. The "interface" is the next piece of the puzzle. These can either be purchased (i.e. Signalink, RIGblaster) or homebrewed from relatively inexpensive parts, some repurposed from other electronics. The retail interfaces are available with all the connections for your specific rig, and with several jumpers or cables, one unit can accommodate several different rigs. Same with a homebrew interface, but that is up to you when you build it. Some of the newest rigs are already digital capable, and only require a minimal interface.

The benefit of digital communications is the ability to make contacts at lower power levels and transfer information at a higher speed. For example, a voice contact that takes 100W or more, can be made with 30W or less using



Audio XFMRs and Pots

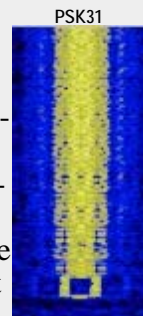


PSK31 (just one of MANY digital modes). That means less transmitter power and less power consumption which allows extended operating time if you are on a battery for your power source — great for emergency or portable use. If you have a lot of information to send, a mode like MT63 can send that message much faster due to its wider bandwidth and with as little as 10-15W.

If you don't like to type, you can load presets in the program, so all that is required for a QSO is point and click. Morse Code, commonly referred to as CW (the first digital mode), can be easily translated by the same programs, and CW certainly has its advantages when making contacts. Once you are all set up, making a digital contact or QSO is very easy. There are numerous amateur stations eager to make a digital contact, and many reside on 20 meters at 14.070MHz USB using mostly PSK31. It is easy to make that DX contact here, plus you can do it on minimal transmitter power.

However, 20 meters isn't the only band where you can find digital activity, and some of it is not just for recreation. The Louisiana ARES Digital Net takes place every Sunday night at 0100 UTC on 3.596MHz USB (80 meters), and you do not need to be an ARES member to check in. Different modes have been used during the ARES Digital Net and communication has taken place with as little as 5W across Louisiana and Texas.

If you are interested in giving your station digital communications capability, simply ask an AARA member and we will advise and guide you on what you can do to set it up. You will find that it is fun and enjoyable, and very useful when the situation may not be fun — or enjoyable.



DECEMBER 2015 ACADIANA AREA VHF/UHF NET REPORTS

NET	SESSIONS:	TOTAL CHECK-INS:	TOTAL TRAFFIC:	TOTAL TIME: Minutes	Net Manager
AARA Monday Night Net	4	82	0	170	W5GTI Mark
Acadiana ARES Net	5	65	0	118	KN5GRK Herman
Bodie's Memorial DX Net	5	51	0	106	KG5HNO Ramona
Youth Net	2	29	0	69	KF5BEW Abbi KF5FYS Kendra
Friday on the 443 (Secured)	3	27	0	91	W5GTI Mark

AARA Monday Night Net Repeater Rotation

DATE:	TIME:	REPEATER:	PL TONE:
JANUARY 4	7:00 PM	145.370 KF5VH	103.5
JANUARY 11	7:00 PM	443.000 W5DDL	103.5
JANUARY 18	7:00 PM	147.040 W5EXI	103.5
JANUARY 25	7:00 PM	146.820 W5DDL	103.5

When using the 145.370 SkyWarn Repeater System, be sure to use the PL Tone for your area as follows:

NW Quadrant 114.8 - NE Quadrant 127.3 - SW Quadrant 141.3 - SE Quadrant 94.8.

The January 2016 schedule can be viewed, downloaded and printed in Adobe Acrobat .PDF from the club website at:

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/files/calendar.pdf>

The top 10 check-ins for 2016 will have their callsign entered into a drawing for a new Dual Band HT.



1/1	NICK	K5QXJ
1/3	BARBARA	N5AUO
1/5	PAUL	N5KNY
1/6	ARCHIE	W5AG
1/22	BOB	K5IVR
1/24	DAVE	N5OB
1/24	GARY	WB5VBB

There are basically two types of people. People who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded.

- Mark Twain

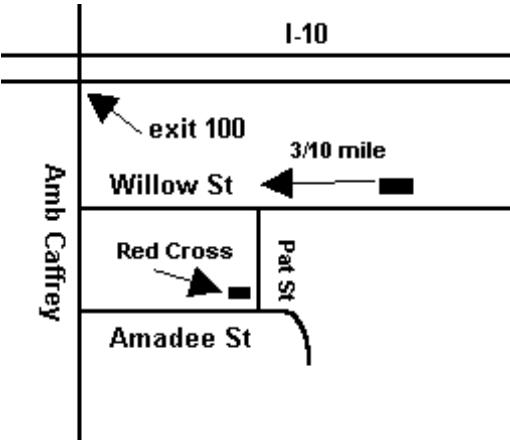
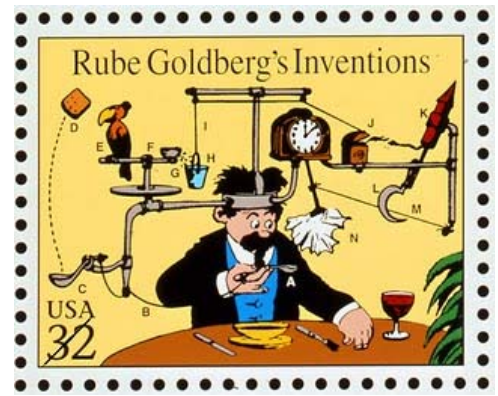
The **LARC** is published monthly by the:
ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Send all articles, photos, and Net Reports for publication in the **LARC** to
LARC@W5DDL.ORG

**ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION, INC**
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



**BRING YOUR
FRIENDS**

COMPLIMENTARY
ISSUE



Hashbrown Casserole

<http://www.tablespoon.com/>

Ingredients:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 lbs Frozen hashbrowns, thawed | 1/2 Cup Onion, chopped |
| 1/2 Cup butter - melted | 2 Cups Cheddar Cheese, grated |
| 1 Can Cream of Chicken Soup | 1 Teaspoon Salt |
| 1 Pint Sour Cream | 1/2 Teaspoon Pepper |

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350° F.
2. Spray 11 x 14 inch casserole or baking dish with cooking spray.
3. In large bowl, combine all ingredients and stir together.
4. Spread evenly in prepared pan.
5. Bake for 45 minutes until top is golden brown.



FCC Information Service

Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur Radio license inquiries about new/vanity call signs: 888-225-5322. This will connect you the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at: 202-414-1250 or:

ulscomm@fcc.gov.

FCC Website:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New call sign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is:

Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245

Send your favorite recipes to:
larc@w5ddl.org